

Not for Publication

My dear Garrison

Peterboro' 3rd mo 7. 1841

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I am once more by the side of my little family, and glad
am I. In I feel myself in need of rest and the comforting influences
of the domestic hearth. I have enjoyed but little of the Comforts of
home for years, and I feel how precious the blessing is that I may
still count mine. I feel like a pilgrim, for I have been one from my
boyhood. Thrown at an early age upon my own resources I have had
all the storms of life to brave unaided save by the smiles of a kind &
loved wife whom I took unto me while an "Infant" in the eye of
the law, and that protection which an unseen Providence can so richly
bestow but of which hundreds so lightly think, because it is unseen.
Truly, I can say, God hath been my guide. His arm hath been
my defence, & he hath shielded me in many a danger. I think
there is but little faith, among those Christians, who are so constantly
troubled what they shall eat, or drink, or where withal they
should be clothed. For my own part, I have had to live upon faith
for I have had little else to live upon. I should have been this
day a rich man in all probability had not the Anti-Slavery
Cause picked me up. for I have Acquisitiveness & Inventiveness
sufficiently developed, had I been placed in Circumstances
where my other faculties were unoccupied. To day I can
stand up "about the main brunt" "poor as a Rat," and feel
myself as happy as though I were "Lord Mogul, of the New
Organization". Now I am sick about these days, from an
affliction of the Head and sore throat. All around, I feel
putty miserable, though I am in hopes that in a few days or
weeks I shall feel better. I have fairly worn myself down. Now
did Old Pharaoh - that old Heathen make the Israelites work har-
der than I have ^{worked} this winter. Night after night, week after week
have I endured cold, & frost, wind & snow. Rain & Hail that
the people might know that Slavery was sucking up their life blood
I am egotistical enough to think I have made an impression

I do not know how it may be with you in Massachusetts but I am decidedly of the Opinion that "Old Organization" will go ahead in this State in spite of all that the Third Party can do. As respects the charges of Goodell they are all untrue, having originated with the Soco Goco's. & you must know that this party have manifested a pro Slavery spirit in this State equal if not superior to the same party in New Hampshire. & that is saying a great deal. Goodell in his perambulations, has picked up these stories and paddles them out in high glee. It makes no capital by it, but rather loses.

Our Northville Convention has been an exceedingly good one. We make a very good impression by our Conventions. I feel a little anxious about the ^{meeting} ~~at~~ ^{one at} ~~the~~ ^{on the 17th} because I am so situated in point of health that I can do nothing towards stirring up the people to the necessity of attendance upon it. I think however ~~stands~~ if the going should be good there will be a respectable no. attend. Received from Wm. M. Chace the other day upon my return home, a letter in which I am urged to come to Massachusetts. Hectum in the Western part of the State.

Most gladly would I do it, but my health at present forbids. I think I am fairly entitled to a furlough that I may recruit. Nature declares that I have abused her. If so I must be a good child & repair all injuries & damages, if maybe. I think my throat decidedly better than when I wrote William, & I hope to be able to say that it is well before long.

How do you do? How still persist in trying my patience by not writing me. How long am I to bear all this? For ever! That is more too horrid a doom. I shall put on my severe style one of these times. What do you think it is? I will tell you. While as yet a boy I adopted the following plan of making my Correspondents punctual. If they neglected me, I wrote them two shunts full & made them pay Postage. I had not to send them thus more than 3 times & they wrote for very mercy. Shall I send you thus? If so please write and tell me so. Do you expect J. A. Collins, home soon, with

restored health. If so, I am glad. I have just read the
"Annual report of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society"
No thanks, to any of my friends in Boston. Can't think of me
in your hurry down East. I wonder how you suppose I
can think of you all, in my hurry, yet I do & that very often
with the deepest sympathies. It is a terrible battle we have to
fight. God strengthen us, for my heart almost fails me once
in a while. It is a long road that has no turning and I apprehend
Guth will recover, himself after a while. Peter and friend
and Aunt for, have betrayed him. Judas is not an solitary ex-
ample. Nor Jesus, the only victim. However Garrison, there is
a consolation. God watches them, He can bring their counsels
to naught. While instance after instance of treachery looms
up through the mist, teaching us how few there are that we
can trust, above all things, let us not distrust God. ~~And~~
In him we can Confide. He will shelter us my
dear brother, though all hell rises up.

I want to see you very much. If my health does not get
better, I think I shall come to Boston prior to the meeting
at New York. I hope you and all my dear friends will not be dis-
heartened. A good heart is half the battle.

"Then howl on ye Storms! & roll on thow tide!"

And trouble old Earth on every side,

Can few spirits bid you defiance"

Will you not give my warm love to Helen, to her I suspect
that a good course of Thompsonianism would do my throat
good, & I be a notion to take a trip to George W. Benson &
try it. Give my love to all the dear friends. Look out some-
time for a "Double" Shute. If you should hear of any
body in the Commonwealth of Mass, who should write to write
me, please tell them I reside at Pittsboro where letters will find
me, at all hours.

I am well may, Heaven's smiles be upon you

I am yours most truly

W. L. Garrison

My wife sends love,



Single *1/2*

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Massachusetts